

I am writing to express my concern about the upcoming regulation to include a 'broadcast flag' in television programming. I believe that there are many examples of how this broadcast flag, even if used with good intentions, would severely hamper my fair use rights to record and view television.

I do a lot of traveling for work, and I have both a TiVo (a digital recording device, like a VCR) and a VCR that I use to record television shows while I'm away. By using the broadcast flag, the networks, not me, can decide what shows they want me to be able to record, and what shows I can't. They can also set a time limit on how long the show can be kept for. So for example, if I'm going away for a week, and I want to record 2 movies on Monday, I could come home Friday to find out that one movie was blocked from being recorded, because the television network decided that I shouldn't be able to tape it for whatever reason, and the second movie, while I was able to tape it, expired two days later and was automatically deleted, so I still don't get to watch it. Today, I can set those two movies to be recorded and watch them whenever I want to: easily, and most importantly, legally. Historically there has been nothing wrong with recording movies or shows off of the TV, and I see no reason why that should not continue to be the case.

It is my belief that as a government agency, the FCC should be working to protect my rights as a citizen, not corporate agendas. While I do not agree with piracy, I don't think that broad legislation is the answer. Forcing people to buy a more expensive, purposely broken television or recording device will not stop piracy, but it will defiantly take away my ability to legally watch television how I want to watch it.

In closing, please require the corporations that are urging for the broadcast flag to demonstrate how my fair rights use will be affected, and if my rights are in any way diminished, please do not mandate the use of the broadcast flag. Thank you.